Claims

1. A method for treating cancer, which comprises administering to a mammal, in need of such treatment an effective amount of DMXAA or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof and administering an effective amount of at least one of a compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the DMXAA or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof and the at least one of a compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors are administered in a potentiating ratio.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the DMXAA or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof and the at least one of a compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors are administered concomitantly.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the DMXAA or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof and the at least one of a compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors are administered sequentially.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein the compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors is a compound selected from carboplatin, gemcitabine, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, vincristine, doxorubicin and irinotecan.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors is a compound selected from carboplatin, gemcitabine, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, vincristine and doxorubicin.

7. A composition comprising a combination of DMXAA or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof and at least one of a compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors.

8. A composition according to claim 7 wherein the DMXAA or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof and the at least one of a compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors are present in a potentiating ratio.

9. A composition according to claim 7 or 8 wherein the compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors is a compound selected from carboplatin, gemcitabine, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, vincristine, doxorubicin and irinotecan.

10. A composition according to claim 9 wherein the compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors is a compound selected from carboplatin, gemcitabine, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, vincristine and doxorubicin.

11. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a combination of DMXAA or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof and at least one of a compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers therefor.

12. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 11 wherein the formulation is adapted for intravenous administration.

13. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 11 or 12 wherein the DMXAA or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof and the at least one of a compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines,

topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors are present in a potentiating ratio.

14. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 13 wherein the compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors is a compound selected from carboplatin, gemcitabine, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, vincristine, doxorubicin and irinotecan.

15. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 14 wherein the compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors is a compound selected from carboplatin, gemcitabine, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, vincristine and doxorubicin.

16. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical formulation which process comprises bringing into association a combination of DMXAA or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof and at least one of a compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers therefor.

17. A process according to claim 16 wherein the DMXAA or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof and the at least one of a compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors are present in a potentiating ratio.

18. A process according to claim 16 or 17 wherein the compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors is a compound selected from carboplatin, gemcitabine, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, vincristine, doxorubicin and irinotecan.

19. A process according to claim 18 wherein the compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors is a compound selected from carboplatin, gemcitabine, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, vincristine and doxorubicin.

20. A kit comprising in association for separate administration DMXAA or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof and at least one of a compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors.

21. A kit according to claim 20 wherein the DMXAA or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof and the at least one of a compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors are present in a potentiating ratio.

22. A kit according to claim 20 or 21 wherein the compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors is a compound selected from carboplatin, gemcitabine, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, vincristine, doxorubicin and irinotecan.

23. A kit according to claim 22 wherein the compound selected from platinum compounds, vinca alkaloids, alkylating agents, anthracyclines, topoisomerase I inhibitors, antimetabolites and topoisomerase II inhibitors is a compound selected from carboplatin, gemcitabine, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, vincristine and doxorubicin.